

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present U.S. patent application. Claim 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 15 and 19 have been amended. Claim 18 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-17 and 19-22 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Rejections of Claims 1, 6, 11-16 and 18 based on *Taniguchi* and *Holt*

Claims 1, 6, 11-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,162,756 issued to Taniguchi et al. (*Taniguchi*) in view of Electronic Circuits – Digital and Analog by Holt (*Holt*). Claim 18 has been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 18 as being anticipated by *Tanaguchi* is moot. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claims 1, 6 and 11-16 are not rendered obvious by *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt*.

Claim 1 recited the following:

a level control circuit configured to provide a first output level control signal that causes the first amplifier subsection operate in a saturated mode when the first amplifier is enabled, and a second output level control signal that causes the second amplifier subsection to operate in a saturated mode when the second amplifier subsection is enabled.

Amended claim 15 is a method claim, and recites similar limitations.

Tanaguchi discloses a high frequency transmission line circuit constructed of a plurality of units, each unit including a pair of transmission lines. See col. 3, lines 64-68. *Tanaguchi* also discloses a power divider/combiner utilizing the high frequency transmission line circuit, wherein the power divider/generator uses high frequency

amplifiers to amplify an input high frequency signal and obtain a high power, high frequency signal. See col. 3, lines 55-59; col. 9, lines 16-18.

Applicant agrees with Examiner that *Tanaguchi* does not disclose a level control circuit. See Office Action, page 2, lines 31-32. However, Examiner asserts that based on *Holt*, it would have been obvious “to provide *Tanaguchi* with a bias control circuit(s)/power supply circuits (level control circuits)....” See Office Action, page 3, lines 13-21. Applicant does not agree with Examiner that it would have been obvious to provide *Tanaguchi* with a level control circuit. However, regardless of whether Examiner’s assertion is correct, Examiner has not established that merely having a level control circuit in *Tanaguchi* constitutes having a level control circuit configured to provide a first output level control signal that causes the first amplifier subsection operate in a saturated mode when the first amplifier is enabled, and a second output level control signal that causes the second amplifier subsection to operate in a saturated mode when the second amplifier subsection is enabled, as recited in claims 1 and 15.

As a result, *Holt* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Tanaguchi*. Thus, *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* fails to disclose at least one limitation of claims 1 and 15. Consequently, claims 1 and 15 are not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 6 and 11-14 depend from claim 1. Claim 16 depends from claim 15. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claims 6, 11-14 and 16 are not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Rejections of Claims 2, 4, 17 and 20 based on *Taniguchi, Holt and Cheng*

Claims 2, 4, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt*, and further in view of *Cheng et al.*, U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0190790 (*Cheng*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claims 2, 4, 17 and 20 are not rendered obvious by *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng*.

As explained above, *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt* fails to disclose a level control circuit configured to provide a first output level control signal that causes the first amplifier subsection operate in a saturated mode when the first amplifier is enabled, and a second output level control signal that causes the second amplifier subsection to operate in a saturated mode when the second amplifier subsection is enabled, as recited in claims 1 and 15. Examiner does not cite *Cheng* for the proposition that *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* includes such a level control circuit. See Office Action, page 4, lines 9-18.

As a result, *Cheng* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt*. Thus, *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng* fails to disclose at least one limitation of claims 1 and 15. Consequently, claims 1 and 15 are not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1. Claims 17 and 20 depend from claim 15. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claims 2, 4, 17 and 20 are not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng* for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 2, 4, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Rejection of Claim 21 based on *Taniguchi, Holt, Cheng* and *Atwater*

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,189,732 issued to Atwater (*Atwater*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claim 21 is not rendered obvious by *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt, Cheng* and *Atwater*.

As explained above, *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng* fails to disclose a level control circuit configured to provide a first output level control signal that causes the first amplifier subsection operate in a saturated mode when the first amplifier is enabled, and a second output level control signal that causes the second amplifier subsection to operate in a saturated mode when the second amplifier subsection is enabled, as recited in claim 15. Examiner does not cite *Atwater* for the proposition that *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng* includes such a level control circuit. See Office Action, page 4, lines 21-30.

As a result, *Atwater* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng*. Thus, *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt, Cheng* and *Atwater* fails to disclose at least one limitation of claim 15. Consequently, claim 15 is not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt, Cheng* and *Atwater* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 21 depends from claim 15. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claim 21 is not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt, Cheng* and *Atwater* for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Rejection of Claim 3 based on *Taniguchi*, *Holt*, and *Sevic*

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,525 issued to Sevic et al. (*Sevic*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claim 3 is not rendered obvious by *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Sevic*.

As explained above, *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt* fails to disclose a level control circuit configured to provide a first output level control signal that causes the first amplifier subsection operate in a saturated mode when the first amplifier is enabled, and a second output level control signal that causes the second amplifier subsection to operate in a saturated mode when the second amplifier subsection is enabled, as recited in claim 1. Examiner does not cite *Sevic* for the proposition that *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* includes such a level control circuit. See Office Action, page 5, lines 16-26.

As a result, *Sevic* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt*. Thus, *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Sevic* fails to disclose at least one limitation of claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 is not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Sevic* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claim 3 is not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt*, and *Sevic* for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Rejections of Claims 5, 7-10 and 19 based on *Taniguchi*, *Holt* and *Atwater*

Claims 5, 7-10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt*, and further in view of *Atwater*. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claims 5, 7-10 and 19 are not rendered obvious by *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Atwater*.

As explained above, *Taniguchi* in view of *Holt* fails to disclose a level control circuit configured to provide a first output level control signal that causes the first amplifier subsection operate in a saturated mode when the first amplifier is enabled, and a second output level control signal that causes the second amplifier subsection to operate in a saturated mode when the second amplifier subsection is enabled, as recited in claims 1 and 15. Examiner does not cite *Atwater* for the proposition that *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Cheng* includes such a level control circuit. See Office Action, page 4, lines 21-30 and page 6, lines 1-20.

As a result, *Atwater* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt*. Thus, *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Atwater* fails to disclose at least one limitation of claims 1 and 15. Consequently, claims 1 and 15 are not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt* and *Atwater* for at least the reasons set forth above.

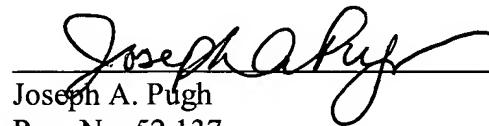
Claims 5 and 7-10 depend from claim 1. Claim 19 depends from claim 15. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicant submits that claims 5, 7-10 and 19 are not rendered obvious by *Tanaguchi* in view of *Holt*, *Cheng* and *Atwater* for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 5, 7-10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-17 and 19-21 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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